(b) whether it is a fact that a number of newspapers were forced to curtail their coverage by reducing the number of pages to meet the situation; and

(c) what were the reasons for such a situation and the steps taken to help tide over the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): (a) and (c) There had been some temporary shortfall in the supply of newsprint from indigenous mills owing to power shortage, shut down for maintenance etc. To ease the situation more imported newsprint from the buffer stock of State Trading Corporation was released.

(b) Government have not received any such reports.

**Support price for paddy**

444. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have raised the support price for paddy for the current year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the grounds justifying the same in terms of cost of production, indicating the different inputs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have fixed procurement price of Common, Fine and Superfine varieties of paddy of Fair Average Quality at Rs. 175, Rs. 185 and Rs. 195 per quintal respectively for 1989-90 season as against Rs. 160, Rs. 170 and Rs. 180 per quintal fixed for the previous season.

The Government have raised the procurement prices after considering the recommendations of the Commissi on for Agricultural Costs and Prices and the views of the State Governments, Central Ministries and the Planning Commission. The various factors taken into account in fixing the above procurement prices, *inter alia,* include cost of production, changes in input prices, trends in market prices and inter-crop price parity, paity between prices paid and prices received by the farmers.

**Norms for classification of newspapers**

445. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the norms for classification of newspapers have recently been improved and revised; and

(b) if so, on what lines and the details of notifications made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The classification of newspapers has been revised with effect from Ist April, 1989 under a public notice issued on 23rd May, 1989, as per details given in the enclosed statement.

**Statement**

*Circulation for Publishing day*

| Category | Prior to 1-4-1989 | Revised |
|---|---|---|
| Small . . . | Below 15,000 copies | Upto 25,000 copies |
| Medium . . . | 15,000 to 50,000 copies | Above 25,000 and upto 75,000 copies. |
| Big . . . . . | Above 50,000 copies | Above 75,000 copies. |